

A photograph of a dirt ground with a stone arch made of several flat stones in the upper center. A blue water bottle is in the bottom left corner. The text is overlaid on the image.

CTS and 4-H

**What These Two Programs
Could Mean for You
(and your high school career)**

CTS – Anyone? Anyone?

- **C**ontinuous **T**alking **S**yndrome?
- **C**an't **T**olerate **S**odium?
- **C**ompletely **T**errible **S**ituation?

What the Heck *is* CTS?

- **C**areer and **T**echnology **S**tudies
- CTS is an educational program designed to optimize your high school experience.

CTS: What it Offers

- CTS provides students with the opportunity to learn experientially or, to use 4-H terms, opportunities to *learn to do by doing*.
- Which means that CTS focuses on areas such as:
 - Helping students to develop life-applicable skills;
 - Refining and defining student's career aspirations;
 - Applying and reinforcing learnings from other areas of study;
 - Preparing students for the transition into post-secondary, workforce, family and community environments.

CTS – How it Applies to You

- If any of the focuses or objectives from the prior page sound familiar, it's because life-applicable skills, developing abilities that are complementary to other areas of your life and preparing you for the future, are all goals of the 4-H program, as well as CTS.
- This means that, with a little bit of research and some slight tweaking, you can potentially get high school credits for your 4-H project work.
- And getting credits for something that you would be doing anyway seems like a pretty efficient use of time.

CTS – How it All Comes Together

- CTS is developed across *levels* as opposed to *grades*.
- This means that instead of having to enter CTS at a certain time (based on what grade you're in), you can enter at whatever point works best for you.
- The course structure of CTS allows schools to create unique, specific-for-you programs that are designed to meet your learning needs and recognize the educational components of work that you're currently involved in.

CTS: How To Make it Work for You

- It's important to work **with** your school advisor when establishing your CTS curriculum.
- If your intention to match CTS with your 4-H project is communicated and understood at the outset, school staff will be more able to help you align your 4-H project with curricular outcomes.
- This will ensure that you meet all of CTS's program requirements, and earn the appropriate number of credits.

CTS: Important “Rules”

- CTS is not a retroactive program; therefore, credits cannot be assigned to 4-H project work that you’ve already completed.
- This is because schools are not able to assign credit to student work that is not aligned with the official CTS program of studies. To warrant credits, student work must reflect an appropriate amount of time and effort.
- While 4-H project work aligns *closely* to CTS programming, it is by no means an exact match. A few extra “tweaks” may need to be added to a student’s project work to ensure a successful match.
- This means that you need to get things set up *before* your project work starts, which also means that you should likely go and talk to your guidance counsellor on Monday, to start getting things in place for the fall.

CTS: For More Information

- To find out more about how CTS works, and whether or not your project aligns with one of the CTS's curriculums, go to: **www.education.gov.ab.ca/cts**
- Call the CTS Team Leader by phoning: **780.427.2984**
- Talk to your school's guidance counsellor – the sooner you get them involved, the better.